



CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant

Anne Tyler

WHAT: You will create a MENU which features and explains SIX symbolic meals. You may work in groups (4 max.).

HOW:

1. **CREATE A MEAL** inspired by each the Tulls . . .
 - * Pearl
 - * Beck
 - * Cody
 - * Ezra
 - * Jenny
 - * . . . and ONE other character

Each meal should have **at least FIVE items** on it. Create it as a **SYMBOL**-- it should have **literal value** (actual food, a reasonable combination to make a meal) **AND figurative value**.

2. **PLAN THE PRESENTATION OF THE MEAL:** How will the meal be served? (in four formal courses? school cafeteria style? potluck? family style? . . .) Will you garnish it? Serve in on your finest china? Again, think **SYMBOLICALLY** (don't forget literal value)



3. **INCLUDE A QUOTE FROM THE NOVEL:** SHOW your inspiration with a clear example from the novel which provides evidence that your choices fit the needs/style/qualities/disposition of the character that inspired them. Cite the quotation using MLA one-source documentation.



4. **WRITE BRIEF CHEF'S NOTES FOR EACH DISH:** This is where you (the chef) explain your choices. Why is this meal perfect for the character that inspired it?

SEE THE (PARTIAL) EXAMPLE ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET!

Hawthorne's Diner

Where you get the meal you deserve!

HESTER'S HEARTY DINNER

- Chicken Noodle Soup—just like Grandma used to make!
- Warm, Fresh Bread
- Tall, Cold Glass of Milk
- Apple Pie à la Mode

We'll bring this meal to your table in a pleasant, home style manner but be prepared: it will take a while to arrive. In fact, you may think your dinner isn't coming at all, but be patient. Also, don't lose your temper when you see your bill—you will pay a very steep price for this meal! If you can wait—and pay—your good, kind demeanor will be rewarded when you receive this warm and filling meal.

"But, in the lapse of the toilsome, thoughtful, and self-devoted years that made up Hester's life, the scarlet letter ceased to be a stigma which attracted the world's scorn and bitterness, and became a type of something to be sorrowed over, and looked upon with awe, yet with reverence too . . . Hester comforted and counseled them as best she might!" (238-9).

CHEF'S NOTES: This meal is inspired by Hester Prynne, whose humility, long-suffering, and good works eventually earned her great respect and admiration from the very community who disdained and embarrassed her for her sin. She certainly has to wait long and pay dearly to earn the respect she likely deserved all along. When she finally does, though, the result is satisfying and warm.

CHILLINGWORTH'S COLD BREAKFAST SPECIAL

- Cold Pizza (from last night's party—extra sardines!)
- Room Temperature, Greasy Scrambled Eggs
- Congealed Bacon Strips
- Burnt Toast
- Flat Coca-Cola

You've worked hard and waited a long time now you get all that you deserve. This meal will be slopped onto your cafeteria tray by an indifferent and apathetic lunch lady who will definitely miss your plate and spill your Coke into your food as she rushes you along the line. You asked for it! Revenge may keep you feeling warm and hungry while you pursue it, but when you finally get what you've been waiting for, it is disappointing, cold, and ugly. Eat up!

"Nothing was more remarkable than the change which took place almost immediately after Mr. Dimmesdale's death, in the appearance demeanor of the old man known as Roger Chillingworth. All his strength and energy—all his vital and intellectual force—seemed at once to desert him; insomuch that he positively withered up, shriveled away, and almost vanished from mortal sight, like an uprooted weed that lies wilting in the sun" (236).

CHEF'S NOTES: Chillingworth wakes up at the end of the novel to the cold, greasy reality of what he has earned: he has destroyed Dimmesdale! But what is he left with? Only the chilling, flat, disappointing, and lonely realization that he has wasted his own life too.